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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: David Catanzaro
Title: TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY
Expected Examiner: Gary Graham
Group Art Unit: 1744

JCS 09/505791 PRO
02/17/00



PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Hon. Commissioner
of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of David Catanzaro for a TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY. This application is a continuation of U.S. Utility Application 08/777,032, filed on 12/30/96. Enclosed are: 2-sheets of drawings, 5-total claims (2-indep.), verified statement to establish small entity status, declaration for patent application and a money order in the amount of \$345.00 to cover the filing fee.

I claim benefit of 37 C.F.R 1.53(B).

Certificate of Mailing

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

David Catanzaro
(Signature of person
mailing paper or fee)

Applicant or Patentee: David Catanzaro Attorney's
 Serial or Patent No.: _____ Docket No.: _____
 Filed or Issued: _____
 For: TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
 STATUS (37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27 (b)) — INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9 (c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41 (a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled _____ described in _____

the specification filed herewith
 application serial no. _____, filed _____;
 patent no. _____, issued _____.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9 (c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

no such person, concern, or organization
 persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

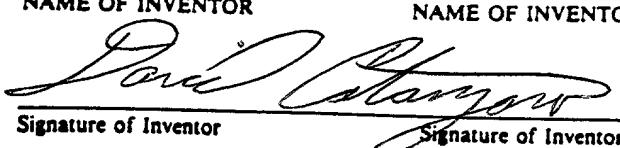
INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| David Catanzaro | NAME OF INVENTOR | NAME OF INVENTOR | NAME OF INVENTOR |
|  | Signature of Inventor | Signature of Inventor | Signature of Inventor |
| 2/17/2000 | Date | Date | Date |

IN THE APPLICATION

of

DAVID CATANZARO

for a

TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY

filed with

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY

This application is a continuation of U.S. Utility Application 08/777,032, filed on 12/30/96. The earlier filing date of this application is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C 120.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The instant invention relates generally to toothbrushes, and more specifically it relates to a toothbrush assembly which may contain a combination of appealing qualities to a child, and thereby may promote a superior way to achieve desirable habits associated with good oral hygiene.

Description of the Prior Art

There are various advantages in storing a toothbrush in an upright position, and numerous patents have disclosed holders or stands for retaining a toothbrush in a vertical position when placed on a horizontal surface. For instance, U.S. Pat. 5,444,889 (Barre) discloses a toothbrush assembly including a toothbrush and a stand for holding the brush. The stand includes a cup portion having a cavity within, wherein the brush handle can be inserted. A pair of legs separate and unattached to one another support and are connected to the cup portion. Further included is a foot for each leg, each foot being connected to the lower end of the leg opposite the cup portion. The feet are also separate and unattached from one another. U.S. Pat. Des. 369,932 and U.S. Pat. Des. 370,147 (Petronio) discloses a toothbrush holder in the shape of a torso having a front and rear portion. The front portion includes a recess extending therethrough, wherein a brush handle can be inserted. Further included, extending from the front portion, is a pair of feet which are separate and unattached from one another. A tail section extends from the rear portion. While these units may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the present invention as heretofore described.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A first object of the present invention is to provide a toothbrush assembly that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

A second object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, comprising a toothbrush having a first and second end, and a bristle head being positioned on the first side of the first end, and a stand for retaining the brush in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface.

A third object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which the stand is releasably connected to the toothbrush handle.

A forth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which the stand is a pair of feet which are positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface and a single heel portion, wherein the single heel portion includes a recess for selectively receiving the second end of the toothbrush handle therein.

A fifth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which a base is connected to the bottom side of the foot stand for providing additional stability to the foot stand.

A sixth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which the base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with the recess in the foot stand for additionally receiving the second end of the toothbrush handle therein, for providing additional stability to the foot stand and brush handle.

A seventh object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which the handle is in the shape of a torso of an animate object conforming with the shape of the foot stand, wherein the first and second end of the handle further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members having the shape of arms and legs extending therefrom.

An eight object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which a cover is provided in the shape of a head conforming with the shape of the handle and foot stand, for selectively covering the bristle head.

A ninth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, that will improve motivational aspects, to encourage a child to easily assemble the parts of the toothbrush assembly together when not in use, so as to promote a superior way to achieve desirable habits associated with good oral hygiene.

A tenth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that will enforce a child who likes cartoon characters to utilize the hygienic values incorporated into the invention, instead of the stark and unattractive existing toothbrush systems.

An eleventh object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that is simple and easy to use.

A twelfth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that is economical in cost to manufacture.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the append claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present invention will become more fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein;

FIGURE 1 is a front exploded perspective view of the toothbrush assembly according to the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a front perspective view of the toothbrush assembly in Figure 1 assembled together.

FIGURE 3 is a front perspective view similar to Figure 2 broken away, showing a base for the stand.

FIGURE 4 is a front exploded perspective view of the toothbrush assembly according to the present invention showing a base for the stand.

FIGURE 5 is a front perspective view of the toothbrush assembly in Figure 4 assembled together.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With regard to FIGURES 1 and 2, the embodiment of the invention drawn shows an elongated toothbrush handle 1 having a first end 2 a second end 3 and a first and second side. A bristle head 4 is positioned on the first side of first end 2. A stand 5 is in the shape of first and second feet 6a and 6b. Each first and second feet 6a and 6b, are elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end. First and second feet 6a and 6b are joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface. The heel end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b, is positioned together to form a single heel portion 7. Single heel portion 7 includes a recess 8 extending through a top side thereof and towards a sole thereof for selectively receiving second end 3 of handle 1 therein, thereby retaining handle 1 in a vertical position when stand 5 is placed on a horizontal surface. First and second feet 6a and 6b each include a side surface, the side surfaces intersect one another in a common plane. The toe end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b extends in the same direction as bristle head 4. The heel end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b is substantially flush with the second side of handle 1.

If desired, a base 9 could be connected to a bottom side of stand 5 as shown in FIGURE 3. In FIGURES 4 and 5, base 9 includes a recess 10 extending therethrough and in alignment with recess 8 in stand 5 for additionally receiving second end 3 of handle 1 therein, to provide additional stability to handle 1 and stand 5.

In preferred form, handle 1 is in the shape of a torso 11 of animate object 12, conforming to the shape of first and second feet 6a and 6b, wherein first end 2 of handle 1 further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members 13a and 13b, having the shape of arms extending therefrom matching torso 11 of animate object 12. The second end 3 of handle 1 further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members 14a and 14b, having the shape of legs matching torso 11 of animate object 12.

A cover 16 is provided having the shape of a head 15, conforming to the shape of handle 1 of torso 11 of animate object 12, and feet 6a and 6b for selectively covering bristle head 4.

RECORDED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE

While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and described are pointed out in the annexed claims, it is not intended to be limited to the details above, since it will be understood various omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention.

What is claimed is new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

1. A toothbrush assembly comprising:

a) an elongated handle including:

- i) a first end;
- ii) a second end;
- iii) a first and second side; and
- iv) a bristle head being positioned on said first end and extending from said first side.

and

b) a stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of said first and second feet being elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end, said first and second feet being joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel end of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel portion, said single heel portion including a recess extending through a top side thereof and towards a sole thereof for selectively receiving said second end of said handle therein, thereby retaining said handle in a vertical position when said stand is placed on a horizontal surface, said first and second feet each including a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting one another in a common plain.

2. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a base connected to a bottom side of said stand.

3. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand for additionally receiving said second end of said handle therein.

4. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said toe end of said first and second feet are at an acute angle to one another.

5. A toothbrush assembly comprising:

- a) an elongated handle including:
 - i) a first end;
 - ii) a second end;
 - iii) a first and second side; and
 - iv) a bristle head being positioned on said first end and extending from said first side.
- and
- b) a stand in the shape of first and second feet and including a base on which said first and second feet are mounted, said first and second feet and said base each including a recess for receiving said second end of said handle therein, thereby retaining said handle in a vertical position when said stand and said base are placed on a horizontal surface.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A toothbrush assembly comprising a toothbrush having a first and second end, and a bristle head being positioned on the first side of the first end. A stand in the shape of a pair of feet retains the brush in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface. For additional support, a base may be incorporated with the stand. In preferred form, the handle is in the shape of an animate object conforming with the shape of the foot stand. A cover is provided having the shape of a head conforming with the shape of the handle and foot stand, for selectively covering the bristle head.

FIG.1

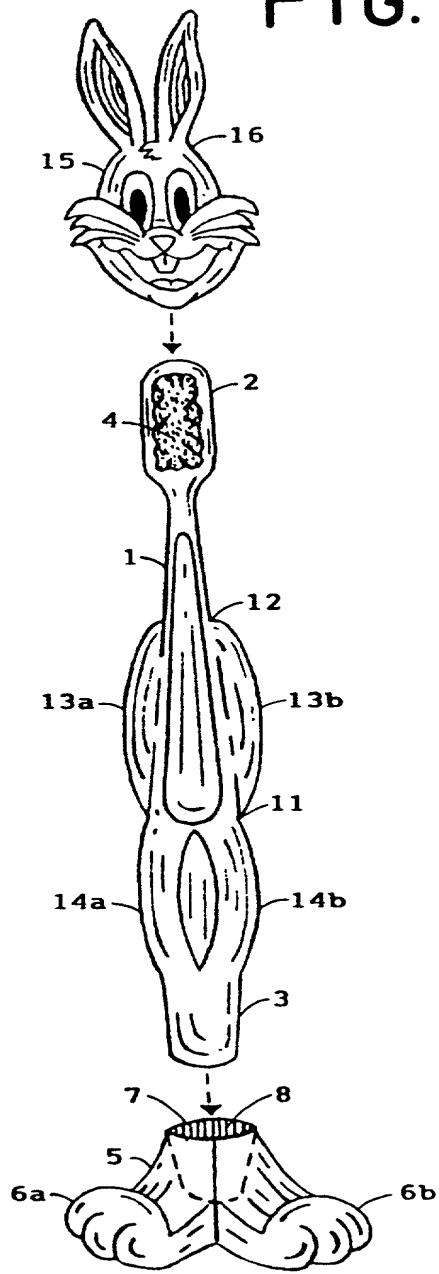


FIG.2

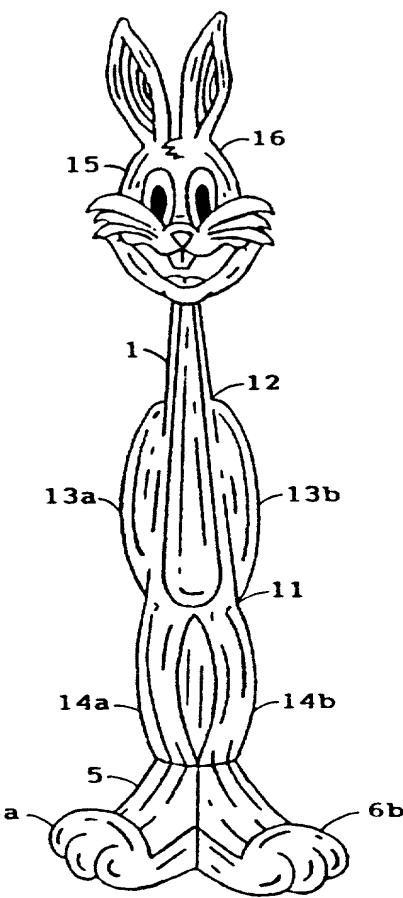


FIG.3

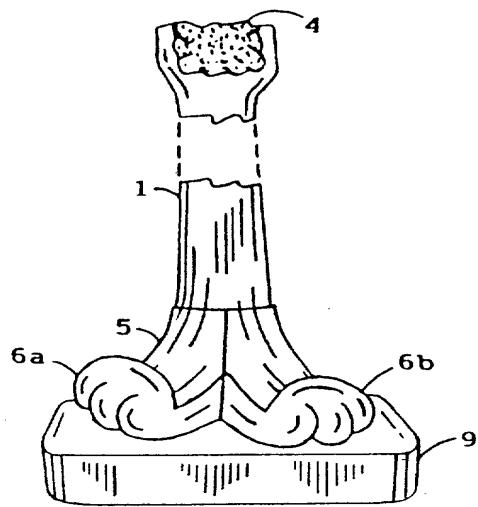


FIG.4

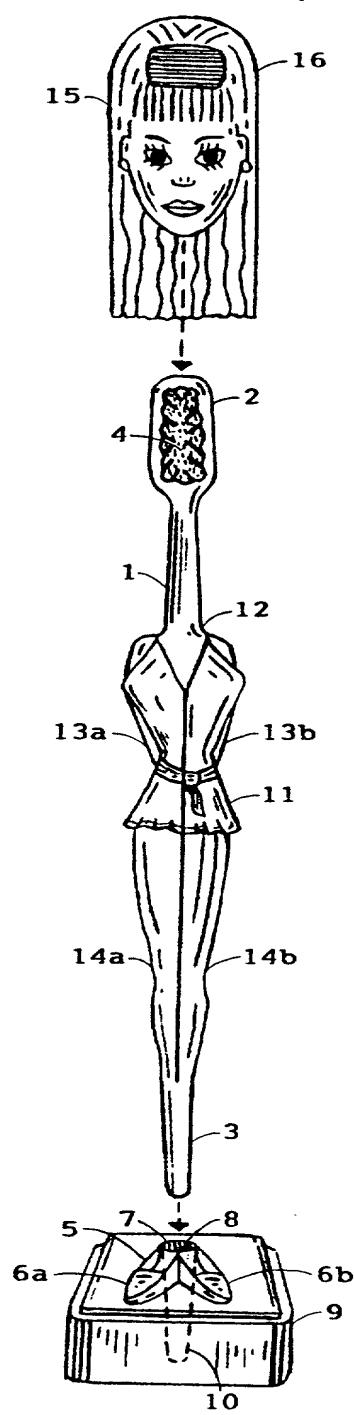
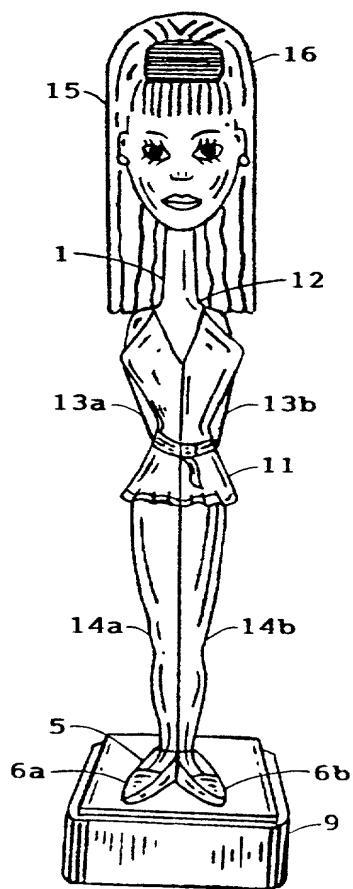


FIG.5



DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No. _____

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled
TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY, the specification of which

(check one) is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as
 Application Serial No. _____
 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

| Prior Foreign Application(s) | | | Priority Claimed | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------|----|
| (Number) | (Country) | (Day/Month/Year Filed) | Yes | No |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| (Application Serial No.) | (Filing Date) | (Status—patented, pending, abandoned) |
| (Application Serial No.) | (Filing Date) | (Status—patented, pending, abandoned) |

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Address all telephone calls to David Catanzaro at telephone no. (570) 876-1009.
 Address all correspondence to David Catanzaro
626 Penn Ave.
Mayfield PA 18433

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor David Catanzaro
 Inventor's signature David Catanzaro Date 2/17/2000
 Residence 626 Penn Ave. Mayfield, PA 18433 Citizenship United States
 Post Office Address 626 Penn Ave. Mayfield, PA 18433

Full name of second joint inventor, if any _____
 Second Inventor's signature _____ Date _____
 Residence _____ Citizenship _____
 Post Office Address _____

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

Form PTO-FB-A110 (8-83)